several measures under the Integrated Programme for Eradication of child Labour. A National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has been set up under the Chairmanship of Minister of Labour.

(iii) Non-formal education centres have been opened for non-formal education with vacational training for children released from hired labour.

(iv) Welfare measures have been initiated to rehabilitate the displaced children engaged in carpet weaving and their families by providing non-formal education, health care and alternative job opportunities to their parents.

(v) A number of NGOs have been motivated to create awareness amongst the parents through the message that sending children to carpet weaving at an early age will be detrimental to their future prospects.

(vi) Registration cum membership of the Carpet Export Promotion Council has been made compulsory for export of handmade carpets and the council has been motivated in adopting a self regulatory code of conduct.

(vii) Steps have also been taken up at the diplomatic level through our missions abroad to counter the adverse publicity and also to apprise the governments of these countries of the steps being taken by the Government of India for eradication of child labour in carpet weaving.

Upgradation of Techniques and Product in Textiles Sector

1216. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain suggestions made in the Seminar on World Trade System after Uruguay Round-Prospects for South Asian Countries held in New Delhi in February, 1995 that India must upgrade its product and managerial techniques and knowhow in the textiles sector to meet fierce competition from countries like China, Indonesia, South Korea etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on these suggestions in the interest of progress of the country: and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) A seminar on "World Trade System after Uruguay Round" was held in February, 95 at New Delhi. The seminar focussed attention on studying the opportunities and prospects of World Trade System for South Asia after the Uruguay Round. The perceptions of South Asia countries regarding the future developments of the world trade system and the expected impact on foreign relations were also highlighted in the seminar.

Government has been taking a number of steps to enhance the competitive ability of our textiles and clothing exports industry so as to enable to take fuller advantages of increased opportunities under the quota free regime. The steps taken in this regard include ecouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at connessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty-free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.